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Thursday, December 7, 2017
EpsomGuardian

COMPETITION
Your chance to win tickets to see Young Frankenstein show
See page 4

NEWS
Joy as Italian restaurant scoops national award
See page 5

A Warm
WELCOME
Awaits You At
Blue MINT

Blue Mint is no stranger to return custom and it's easy to see why. A favourite with locals and visitors alike, its reputation for excellence is based on its superb contemporary Indian cuisine and friendly, professional service. Tandoori dishes, chef's specialities and a wide range of vegetarian dishes jostle for attention on the impressive menu, whatever your taste you're bound to find something pleasing to your palate.

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'Surrey CCGs having to pay this money is scandalous. This is money that should be spent on doctors, nurses and frontline care, not going to companies'

Labour councillor Kate Chinn

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Undisclosed amount paid to Virgin Care

Reporter
Calum Rutter
calum.rutter@london.newsquest.co.uk

The NHS has paid an undisclosed amount to Virgin Care after the firm sued over the loss of a contract across Surrey.

Six clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), as well as the county council, were involved in the case, brought after Virgin failed to win a child health services contract.

The size of the settlement is confidential, but the Health Services Journal (HSJ) reported that Surrey Downs CCG, which covers Epsom, Dorking and eastern parts of Elmbridge, listed its liability in the case as £328,000 in its monthly accounts.

Labour councillor Kate Chinn said: "Surrey CCGs having to pay this money is scandalous. This is money that should be being spent on doctors, nurses and frontline care, not going to companies."

The HSJ reported the figure was taken down, and it no longer appears in the report.

It is not known what the other parties paid in the settlement.

A statement from Guildford and Waverley CCG, on behalf of the parties, said: "The parties are pleased to confirm that an agreed resolution on the litigation concerning the Surrey Children's procurement has been reached to a satisfactory conclusion for all parties with detailed terms confidential to the parties."

Virgin Care, set up by Richard Branson in 2010, took legal action after missing out on a children's health services contract across Surrey worth £82million.

It had previously held the contract, now held by Surrey Health Children and Families Services, who took over the service in April.

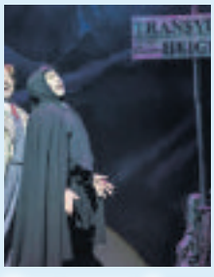
Labour's 2017 Epsom and Ewell parliamentary candidate Ed Mayne said: "The amount of money involved is just shocking, at a time when the people who run the NHS say there isn't enough of it.

"It's almost as if nobody wins. It just shows that the current model of running healthcare is not delivering."

Richard Branson started Virgin Care in 2010 Picture: PA

INSIDE

Tickets up for grabs



See page 4

Drivers go on strike

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MOTOR CODES

Ruby Doohan with Elora at The Children's Trust

May Queen visits trust to discover more about their work

Next year's Banstead May Queen visited The Children's Trust in Tadworth to find out about their work with children who have brain injuries.

Ruby Doohan, who will become May Queen on May 5, 2018, took part in a play therapy session ahead of making the trust her charity of the year.

She said: "I really loved visiting The Children's Trust today and catching bubbles on the stick for Elora to pop.

"The centre is amazing, and I especially loved the sensory tree house and enjoyed the sensory version of the story, The Hungry Caterpillar. We look forward to raising lots of money for them."

Starting in 1985, the Banstead May Queen annual event has raised just under £150,000 for charity.

On average around 30 groups join in the parade along Banstead High Street, put on entertainment and raise money for good causes.

Ruby, who is nine years old and attends St Anne's Catholic Primary School, will be crowned on May 5.

Last year's event was record-breaking, raising about £11,000 for Rett UK.

Johdi Avent, community fundraising manager of The Children's Trust, said: "We would like to say a big thank you to Ruby and the Banstead May Queen Group for choosing to support The Children's Trust this year, and for visiting our specialist centre to see the work we do."

Winning poem

A poem about Stoneleigh Community Library has won a national poetry competition.

Trevor Dunford, a retired architect, was named winner of the Surrey County Council's Poetry Competition for his poem about Stoneleigh Community Library.

The poem describes the library as not just being about books but also the volunteers that run this community library and the clubs and activities it provides for the local community.

The Poetry Competition was launched to help celebrate National Libraries week and attracted scores of entries around the chosen theme of celebrating libraries and the individual communities around them.

Many entries described libraries as being places to dream, learn and meditate.

Trevor is a founder member of the Stoneleigh Creative writing group which meets monthly at Stoneleigh Community Library. He began writing poetry as a teenager and also writes historical stories.

Diana Kay, Chair of the Friends of Stoneleigh Library, said: "I am delighted at Trevor's success with a poem celebrating our library and the volunteers who put so much effort into making it a lively and creative place."

Trevor's winning poem can be read at npdsurrey.wordpress.com/

Invitation goes out from care home to parents

Reporter
Sophie Jones
sophie.jones@london.newsquest.co.uk

An Epsom care home is inviting parents and toddlers from the local community to join residents for a relaxing morning of coffee and catch-ups.

The team at Appleby House care home in Longmead Road has created a new children's group at the home, and will be welcoming the local community to join them each week to spend time relaxing with residents.

The group has already hosted a successful first session, welcoming eight mums and toddlers from the local community, who enjoyed spending time chatting with the residents over a cup of tea.

Shona Bradbury, home manager at Appleby House, said: "The residents have enjoyed helping us set up and decorate the space, and loved spending time with the parents and their children playing a variety of games. Intergenerational relationships have been proven to be beneficial to older people, and it was certainly a highlight of the day for the residents at Appleby House.

"The first day at the children's club proved to be a success, and we look forward to welcoming parents and toddlers from the local community to our future sessions."

The care home home provides residential and specialist dementia care, as well as short term respite care.

Your Local Guardian

A festive day out by steam

£5 per person discount on all prices when you quote code: VAI

Bob Green

The Sherborne Christmas Carol

Thursday 14th December 2017

Treat yourself to a festive steam day out in the company of historic locomotive No. 70013 Oliver Cromwell. We will cross the edge of Salisbury Plain and steam over the Gillingham Viaduct on route for attractive Sherborne, which will be decorated for Christmas.
At Sherborne you can explore the town's ancient buildings or craft, fashion, art and antique shops, or join in a traditional carol service in the surroundings of the ancient abbey. Alternatively, stay on board for Yeovil Railway Centre to watch our loco being turned and serviced and see the Engine Shed exhibition.
Watch out for Father Christmas and his Elves who will visit the train with gifts for the children on board – let us know your child's age as you book.

Departing: London Victoria 08:45, Staines 09:35 and Woking 10:05 (approx times)

Price includes

- **Standard Class** £109pp/£332 family – a reserved seat usually at a table for four
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Junior fares available. The Railway Touring Company's Standard Conditions of Booking and Travel apply – see website or brochure for details.

Perhaps Councillor Colin Kemp knows more than he is letting on about the "request" from Father Christmas

Request from 'Santa' over street lights controversy

Street lights across Surrey will be on overnight on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, because of an "official request" from Father Christmas.

At the council meeting on December 6, Councillor Colin Kemp said the request had been made because Rudolph's nose is "a little duller this year".

He said: "We wanted to make sure that the children of Surrey get their Christmas presents on Christmas Eve."

For adults, the decision was also made so they can enjoy celebrations during the festive period, and safely walk to mass on Christmas Eve.

Cllr Kemp said the team had been able to overcome "technical issues" in order to make this commitment.

The council has recently kept the lights on for an extra hour at night, until 1am instead of midnight, although on most nights they remain off until 5am.

Hopes for BID

A total of 381 businesses in Epsom could soon join together in an organisation which could fund marketing for the town and organise high profile events.

Business have until December 13 to vote for or against the The Epsom Business Improvement District (BID), for which they would pay between £150 a year (for the smallest businesses) and £8,000 a year (for the largest businesses).

Michelle Baker, BID development manager, said: "A Business Improvement District is the best way for all businesses in Epsom to invest a small amount each year to improve things that are beyond the remit of the Council.

"A BID is 100 per cent business managed and business-led - and there is a tremendous amount of support from the business community in Epsom and a real appetite for getting things done, so we are hopeful that this will be a successful ballot."

The BID boundary would include the town centre and extends to Epsom Downs Racecourse, and would include high street names such as Marks and Spencer, Waitrose, McDonalds and Wetherspoons.

The BID would have a budget of £1.5 million which, organisers say, could be used to boost trade and fund new initiatives and could start its activities on April 1 in 2018, pending a yes vote.

Royal approval for cancer work

Reporter
Liam McInerney
liam.mcinerney@london.newsquest.co.uk

The Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton has received royal recognition for its breakthroughs for discovering new cancer treatments.

Sutton's cancer research centre was granted the Queen's Anniversary Prize and will be presented with the award at Buckingham Palace in February 2018.

The ICR has discovered 20 new targeted drug cancers and has used nine in clinical trials since 2005.

A partnership with The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust allows the ICR to transfer their research to working with patients.

Professor Paul Workman, Chief Executive of the ICR, London, said: "It's a huge honour to be awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize.

"It recognises the incredible achievements we've made which have only been possible because of the expertise and hard work of so many people across the ICR, and the generous support of our funders, donors and collaborators.

"Cancer affects so many people's lives and we're committed to doing research that is not only scientifically excellent but also that delivers with a strong sense of urgency real benefit for patients and their families."

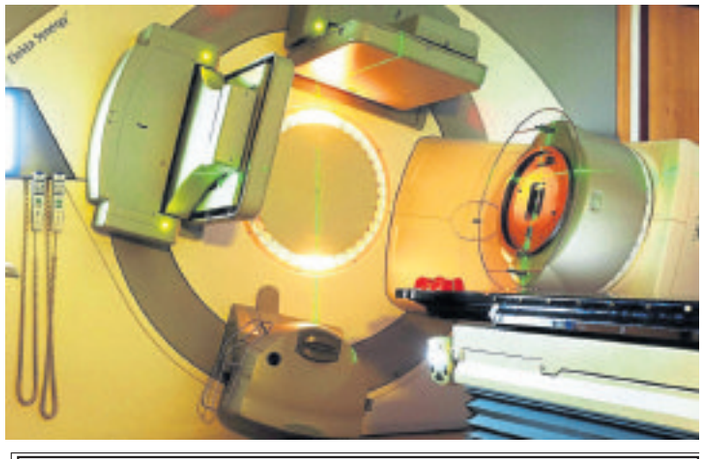
A prostate cancer survivor told Sutton Guardian in September how radiation therapy treatment at The Royal Marsden saved his life.

The clinical trial on a high-tech form of radiation carried out by the Marsden and the ICR found that 71 per cent of patients were alive and disease-free five years after treatment.

William Burley, 76, told Sutton Guardian: "It seems to have killed my cancer. I'm healthy and I can now carry on with the sports I enjoy like swimming and cycling."

Speaking about the Queen's Anniversary Prize, Sir Damon Buffini, chairman of the Royal Anniversary Trust, said: "The focus of the Prizes on innovation and practical benefit to people and society is a great incentive to our universities and colleges to think critically about the direction of their work and its application and relevance in today's world.

"The national recognition and prestige conferred by the Prizes also enables individual institutions to win support and leverage funding for their future plans."



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Win tickets for Frankenstein

Legendary filmmaker and comedian Mel Brooks brings his classic monster musical comedy Young Frankenstein to life on stage in an all-singing, all-dancing musical collaboration with Tony-award winning Broadway director and choreographer Susan Stroman.

The show stars Ross Noble, Hadley Fraser, Summer Strallen, Shuler Hensley, Patrick Clancy and Lesley Joseph.

Grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein, Dr. Frederick Frankenstein (pronounced 'Fronk-en-steen') inherits a castle in Transylvania leading him to fulfil his grandfather's legacy by bringing a corpse back to life.

With help and hindrance from hunchback henchman Igor, buxom assistant Inga and needy fiancée Elizabeth, his experiment yields madcap success and monstrous consequences.

For a chance to win one of FOUR pairs of tickets, answer the following question:

What's the song title of the musical's most famous tap-dance number?

A. Putting on the Glitz
B. Putting on the Ritz
C. Putting on the Fritz

Tickets valid for performances until 9th February 2018, Mon – Thursday.

Subject to availability. Tickets are non-transferable, non-refundable and no cash alternative will be offered.

If the winner does not claim their prize within 10 days of being notified, the prize is withdrawn and a new winner will be selected.

Send your answer with your name, address and contact number by post to: Young Frankenstein competition, Floor 9, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS, to arrive by the closing date of December 14. Alternatively, text your answer to 80360. Starting with YOUNG leave a space followed by the answer, your name, address and contact number. Texts cost 50p plus your normal operator text charge. Text lines open on December 6 and close December 14 at 23:59. Visit **newsquest.co.uk/terms**

'Excited' to make finals

Reporter
Liam McInerney
liam.mcinerney@london.newsquest.co.uk

An Epsom woman is through to the finals of a national beauty competition.

Casey Pragnell recently won the title of Miss Surrey Galaxy, this means that she will be competing in the grand final of Miss Galaxy England 2018 in March with winners from all over the country.

Casey said: "I am so excited to have made it to the final, it is a great achievement and I can't wait to meet all of the other girls and start using my title to positively help the community. I have already started planning charity events to raise money, this is such an exciting time!"

The final is being held in March 2018 at Park Hall Hotel, Lancashire.

The winner of the United Kingdom Galaxy crown will also receive £250 voucher for a pageant dress from The Dress Studio, a sash, Schwarzkopf hair products, earrings, and fake tan.

Casey Pragnell, from Epsom, is competing in the UK Galaxy final

The champion will also travel to the USA with contestants from all over the world, to compete in the Miss Galaxy International final, which is being held in the summer of 2018.

The UK has previous success at the Galaxy International Pageant, winning an international crown eight times and have had placements in every division for the past four years.

Casey is being sponsored by Tallulah's Cosmetics in Carshalton.

The new Waterstone High Street store in Epsom

Picture: Sophie Jones for Newsquest

Waterstones' long-hailed return

Waterstones opened its doors again in Epsom last Saturday after more than five years of rumours that the popular bookshop would return.

Its Ashley Centre branch closed in 2012 to the disappointment of many, so news of the new High Street shop has been welcome among Christmas shoppers.

Manager Matt Gretton said: "We have been very busy, and every customer has been very happy that we have opened up again in the town.

"We're looking forward to being part of the local community and glad we have brought a bookshop back to Epsom."

Events are being planned for the new year, which will include a book club.

The Waterstones chain was sold by HMV to Russian oligarch Alexander Mamut in 2011, for £53m and since then has been expanding back into High Streets.

Before this Christmas it also opened new stores in St Neots, Weybridge, Deal in Kent, and London's Blackheath.

Waterstones managing director James Daunt told The Bookseller the chain planned to open at least 10 new stores in 2017, one of which could be in Reigate.

Eatery named as best Italian

Family-owned restaurant wins award

By Calum Rutter
Reporter
calum.rutter@london.newsquest.co.uk

Spaghetti Tree in Tadworth has been named the best independent Italian restaurant in the country.

The family-run eatery won the award at the Pizza, Pasta and Italian Food Association (PAPA) Awards 2017.

Owner Maria Romano said: "We are thrilled to be recognised by The PAPA Awards. We are a small, family-run business, and to be recognised in this way is a fantastic achievement for us.

"Our aim is always to deliver the best we can, and to have this recognition from the PAPA Award judges is a great boost."

Overlooking Walton pond, Spaghetti Tree has been open for more than 30 years, with a menu full of Italian classics.

The PAPA Awards were set up 28 years ago to recognise excellence and encourage innovation in the UK's Italian food industry.

The winners at the PAPA Awards ceremony

Samantha Day of the awards said: "Spaghetti Tree has built a tremendous reputation, and the judges' comments have solidified the hype. Maria and the team offer an incredible experience where visitors can enjoy an authentic taste of Italy.

"The judges were impressed with the ambience of Spaghetti Tree and the wonderful menu offering a really varied selection. Winning a PAPA Award is a very significant achievement, and is a credit to everyone involved."

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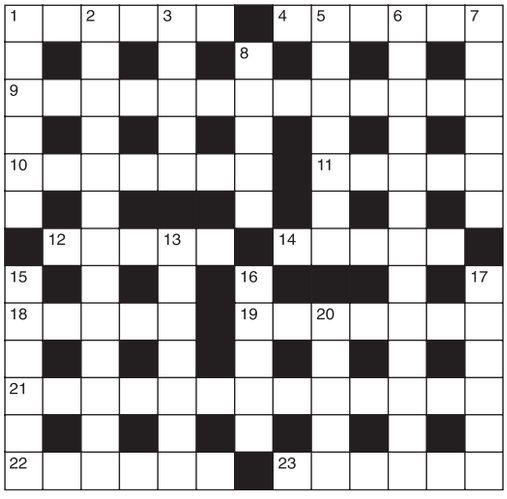


CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1. Contemptible when in a rash? (6)
4. Suit for men in digs (6)
9. Party for levelling out class differences? (6,7)
10. Possibly trees to favour (7)
11. Cited faulty decree (5)
12. Serpent always wants more, it seems (5)
14. Level reached in acting development? (5)
18. Trews to obtain by force (5)
19. Be match for Shakespearean tyrant (7)
21. Not one to enjoy a close relationship (7,6)
22. Somehow stay in good health mentally (6)
23. Finish in attempt to be fashionable (6)

Down

1. Is great unhappiness the lot of the skinflint? (6)
2. Make parson succeed in converting defendant (7,6)
3. Allowed because included the smallest (5)
5. Such a gift will do for now (7)
6. In which the instructor won't wear the wrong gear (7,6)
7. Spectacles help one to aim, of course (6)
8. It's odd, yet mostly the opposite (5)
13. Take out former pamphlet (7)
15. Root crops from Scandinavia (6)
16. It may produce friendly relationship (5)
17. Soft sweetener is bogus (6)
20. Singers provide rich variety round circle (5)

QUICK CLUES

Across

1. Meagre (6)
4. Card suit (6)
9. Informal gathering (6,7)
10. Prize (7)
11. Decree (5)
12. Viper (5)
14. Platform (5)
18. Seize forcibly (5)
19. Shakespearean character (7)
21. Not a close relative (7,6)
22. Reason (6)
23. Fashionable (6)

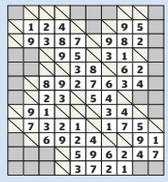
Down

1. Wretchedness (6)
2. Defendant (7,6)
3. Fewest (5)
5. In attendance (7)
6. Motoring tutorial (7,6)
7. Notices (6)
8. Number (5)
13. Take out (7)
15. Vegetables (6)
16. Friendship (5)
17. Fake, informally (6)
20. Church singers (5)

Last week's solutions

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD:
Across: 1 Security risk; 7 Power; 8 Inner; 9 Dot; 10 Den of vice; 11 Repast; 12 Triple; 15 Rearrange; 17 Oil; 18 Staid; 19 Rifle; 21 United States. Down: 1 Standard rose; 2 Raw; 3 Tyrant; 4 Reinforce; 5 Sinai; 6 True feelings; 7 Put up; 10 Discredit; 13 Phone; 14 Inbred; 16 Again; 20 Fat.

KAKURO:



CLOCKWORD: 1 Saucer, 2 Hunter, 3 Etcher, 4 Rafter, 5 Isobar, 6 Litter, 7 Yonder, 8 Nearer, 9 Farmer, 10 Eraser, 11 Nosier, 12 Neater.

CELEBRITY: Sherilyn Fenn.

BATTLESHIPS:

CIRCLEGRAM: The letter represented by the question mark is S. Ben Nevis, Skiddaw, Snowdon, all British mountains.

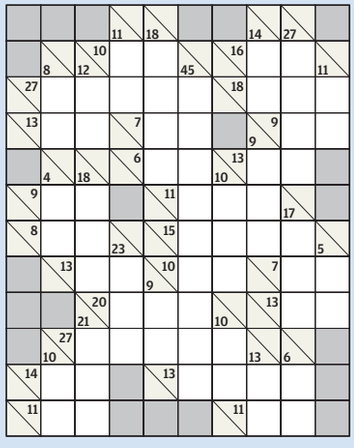
NINER: PERMUTING

SPLIT DECISION:

A	B	O	U	T	E	N	T	E	R
R		R		E	T		O		A
R	O	B	I	N	H	A	T	E	D
O		I		T	O		A		A
W	A	T	C	H	S	O	L	A	R

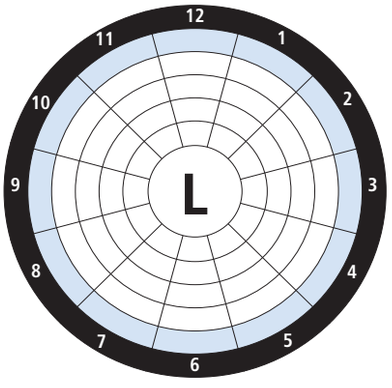
KAKURO

Fill in the white squares with the numbers 1 to 9. Each horizontal block of squares must add up to the number in the shaded square to its left, and each vertical block must add up to the number in the shaded square above it. No number may be used more than once in any one block.



CLOCKWORD

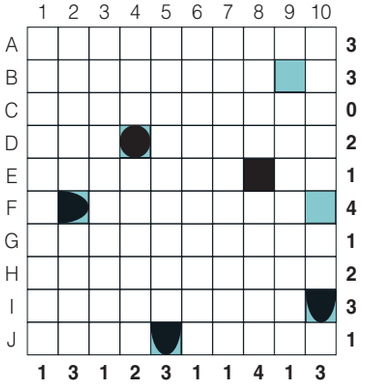
The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter L in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a British actor.



1. Expose
2. Severe experience
3. Savage
4. Tooth-covering
5. Remember
6. Excited sensation
7. Car fuel
8. Soup variety
9. Mammal
10. --- Tower, Parisian monument
11. Bay tree
12. Deadly

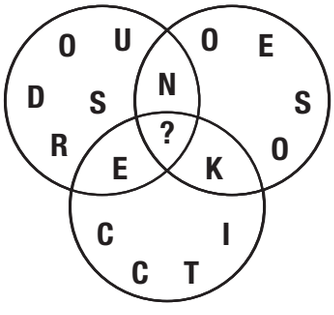
BATTLESHIPS

Find where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the 10 by 10 grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.



CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

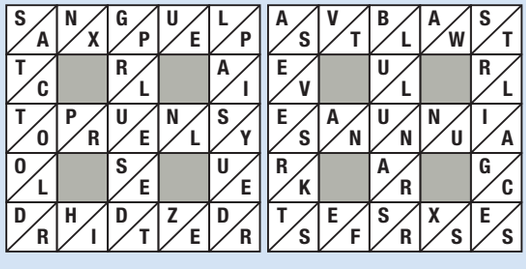
THE CLUES:

54796721	gives waste;
543961	gives waste;
59811	gives waste

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPLIT DECISION

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.



Specsavers Specsavers Specsavers

The Facey family's Christmas lights are being used to raise money for two-year-old Vinnie from New Malden

Face up to Christmas at the Faceys

More than 100 hours of work have gone into setting up a Ewell family's Christmas lights, which they are using to raise money to help a young boy have a better life.

The Facey family, of Chessington Road, have lit up their house like this for about 10 years in a row, and this is the third time the lights are being used to raise money.

Two-year-old Vinnie from New Malden, who has type one spinal muscular atrophy, causing progressive loss of movement and weakness as the muscles waste away, will be supported this year.

Carla Facey said: "I asked people on social media, and Vinnie was one of the children who was nominated. We want to help give him a better quality of life.

"I met his mum for coffee before deciding. I have three healthy children, and when you listen to the struggles of a parent of a child like Vinnie, you just want to do what you can to help."

The money will go towards specialised equipment, physio sessions and his dietary requirements. It was Carla's husband Steve who put the hours in during November to make sure the lights were ready.

Carla, said: "The switch-on was an amazing success. More than 200 people came."

Last year the family helped a boy called Harry, who has cerebral palsy.

His parents were trying to raise £10,000 to take him to Canada for physiotherapy, and the Faceys helped them raise nearly £2,000 of that. The lights are on from 4pm to 9pm, and people are invited to donate in the box. The house is in Chessington Road, by Hook Road Arena.

Thousands back hospital

Reporter
Sophie Jones
sophie.jones@london.newsquest.co.uk

The Keep Our St Helier Hospital Campaign (KOSHH) has gathered 10,775 signatures in its latest petition against removing acute services at Epsom or St Helier hospitals.

Campaigners claim the Epsom and St Helier Hospital Trust's plan to merge acute care will put lives in danger, due to longer journey times for patients and increased strain on services at the single site.

Campaigner Dave Ash said: "It's going to result in loss of life. We're in this for everyone, we're not in this for just one hospital. Of all the things our country has done, the NHS is the finest commission of any nation."

Under the proposals, Epsom and St Helier Hospital Trust is currently trying to get public support for building a single new acute facility at either the St Helier or Epsom hospital site, or a possible third location, with costs predicted to be around £400 million.

St Helier Hospital

Acute services which would be moved include emergency surgery, critical care, complex emergency medicine, births, major A&E and children's overnight wards.

But the trust says that that plans would save lives, not endanger them, and says a single consultant-led facility would be safer for expectant mothers and other patients requiring acute care, and that there would be less reliance on temporary staff.

Currently, if something goes wrong in childbirth, women at St Helier have to be taken by ambulance to St George's Hospital in Tooting.

Daniel Elkeles, chief executive of the trust, said: "These changes will save lives, not endanger them. Our senior clinicians and nurses would not support a proposal that would have any adverse effect on our patients.

"There is a wealth of evidence to show that consolidating NHS services leads to better outcomes for patients, including those who have suffered a stroke, heart attack or trauma.

"Locally, centralising our hip fracture service onto the St Helier site has had a significantly positive impact on our patients, and we now have the second lowest mortality rates in the whole of the country."

KOSHH intend to deliver their petition in person to every Clinical Commissioning Group in South West London: Sutton, Merton, Croydon, Richmond, Kingston, and Wandsworth.

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Ashtead comedian Tamar Broadbent plays her local theatre for one night only

Debut play ready to hit the stage

Award-winning Surrey-born comedienne Tamar Broadbent's debut play hits Leatherhead Theatre for one night only tomorrow (December 8).

Tamar grew up in Ashtead, and attended youth drama at the Leatherhead Theatre.

Now a professional comedian, actor and writer, she is thrilled to be bringing Split, co-written and performed with Emma Pritchard, back home to her local theatre.

"Split was inspired by a joint realisation that so much of who we are now was defined by what we experienced as teenage girls," said Tamar and Emma.

"Discovering sex (sort of), watching our bodies change before our eyes and, above all, the rollercoaster ride that comes with young female friendship.

"That intense, all-consuming first love that was both completely golden... and shattering."

Spanning five years and set to a millennium soundtrack, Split plunges you into a world of nostalgia as it brings to life the pages of your diary you hoped your mum would never find.

Split has received rave reviews, including being described as "something really special" by Female Arts.

It is showing at Leatherhead Theatre on December 8 at 9pm.

Bus routes are hit by strikes

Reporter
Sophie Jones
sophie.jones@london.newsquest.co.uk

More than a dozen bus routes have been affected on December 4 due to a strike by drivers belonging to the RMT (Rail, Maritime and Transport) union.

The drivers, based at Epsom's Quality Line depot, on Roy Richmond Way, are striking because they say employer Quality Lane RATP Group, is not recognising RMT as the union of choice of most of its drivers.

Steve Hedley, assistant general secretary of the RMT, said: "It's really good, we have a lot of people on the picket line.

"Today is to make a point that people won't accept being dictated to - it's up to an individual to make a choice.

He added: "Services have been cancelled, and there are also managers driving buses.

"Unfortunately, RATP Dev UK drafted people in from other depots, and many of them are in the Unite union.

RMT bus drivers at the picket line at Quality Street depot in Epsom

We are very disappointed that Unite have made the decision to cross the picket line."

A RATP Dev UK spokesman said: "We have a long, well-established relationship with Unite at London United and London Sovereign and have recently extended that relationship to our Quality Line garage in Epsom. Every effort will be made to keep any disruption to a minimum."

Unite has been approached for comment.

The following routes are affected:

404 Caterham-on-the-Hill to Coulsdon
406 Epsom to Kingston
411 Kingston to West Molesey
413 Morden station to Sutton
418 Kingston to Epsom
463 Pollards Hill to Coulsdon
465 Kingston to Dorking
467 Epsom Hook and Hinchley Wood School (School days)
470 Colliers Wood to Epsom
633 Wallington County Grammar School to Coulsdon South station
641 Teddington School to West Molesey
S1 Mitcham to Banstead

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DEBATE GUARDIAN

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Good time to give help to those most in neeed

Whilst most of us await with eager anticipation the coming of the Christmas festivities, it is certain that we do not all place the same priorities upon who, what and where those festivities will descend. And this is a good thing, for the world would be a dull place indeed if we all thought the same.

But that we do have in common the good of the many is something I would welcome, as I am sure would most of us, and the proof of the pudding, to couch this in seasonal terms, is in the eating.

Christmas only comes once a year, and a good thing too, I hear you say.

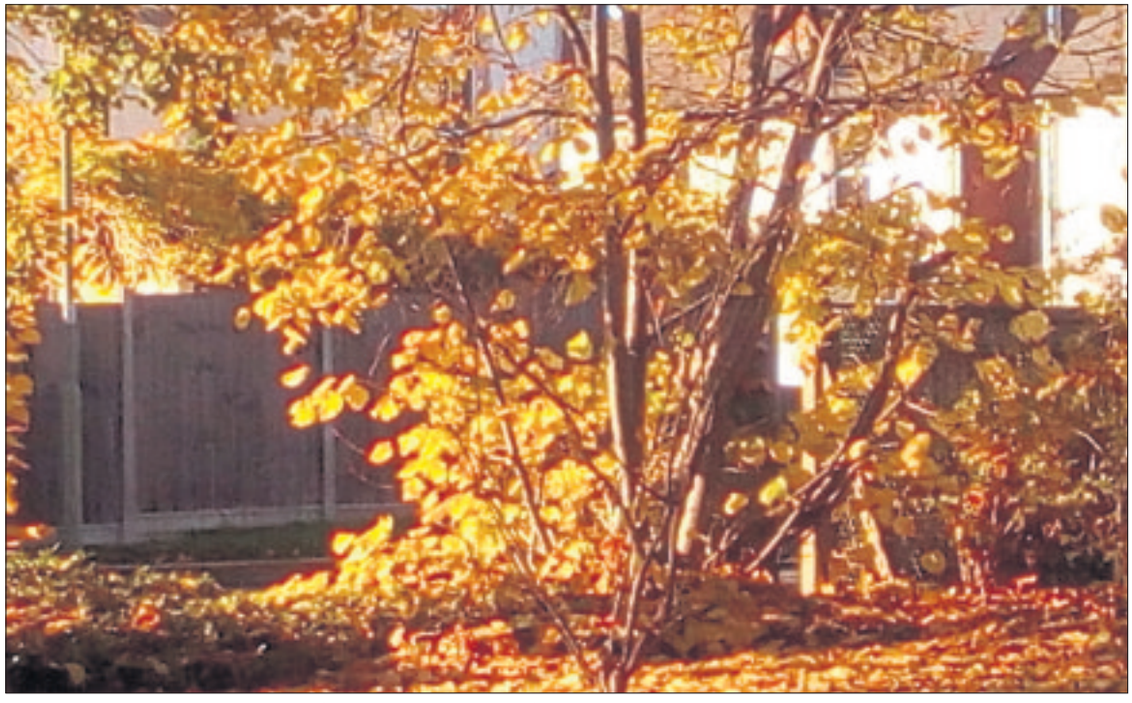
But it does give us a chance - even an excuse - to do what we can for other people, and in so doing, receive the warmth of satisfaction in knowing that this oils the wheels of our civilised community. For what a sadder place our world would otherwise be.

If each of us goes out of our way to do something for just one other person; to make a determined effort to lighten his or her load, even by a very small amount so as to make this season a better place for him or her, then what a world of difference this will make.

Merry Christmas to one and all!

Name and address supplied

picture of the week



Lorraine Humphrey took this picture of golden trees in Epsom. If you have a Borough View picture you would like to be considered for publication email it to pwarner@london.newsquest.co.uk

Trump's ill-judged tweets

I hope this e-mail reaches you in time and in good health. I am Farukh Ahmed Arshad, a UK Imam belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association in UK.

I am writing to express my concern regarding the latest retweet by the president of the United States of America Donald Trump, which shows an unbalanced, incorrect and completely wrong impression of Islam.

I fear that this will serve only to stir up more hatred.

It is shocking that president Trump would retweet the tweets of Jayda Fransen without knowing the full background or the context. It is the job of leaders to be inclusive and unite society.

If Trump knows the background of Jayda and yet he retweets them, then it is shocking that he would promote such hatred. If he does not, then it is shocking that he would he would promote such provocative things without understanding the context and repercussions of Muslims.

These videos give a totally unbalanced and wrong impression of Islam and serve only to stir up hatred, there are countless incidents of violence every day involving non-Muslims.

If people started tweeting videos of them, all it will cause chaos, hatred and conflict between groups.

Islam is a religion of Peace and inclusivity. Actions of a few should not be taken to represent the whole Religion of Islam, as doing this will lead to further misunderstandings and mistrust.

We feel that dialogue is the right way to go forward where people should discuss things in a peaceful way. I fear that the latest tweets will cause more chaos and conflict.

Farukh Ahmed Arshad
Imam of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, UK
Thornton Road
Carshalton

Will computer games make it to Olympics?

EDITOR'S VIEW

The world's gone mad - playing computer games is set to become an Olympic sport.

They do nothing to get you fit, the opposite in fact – anything which encourages beer drinking and munching pizza, while you're actually taking part, can't be a sport. Your thumbs might get some exercise but that's it – on that basis put 'thumb wrestling' in the Olympics.

eSports will be added to the official programme at Hangzhou, China for the Asian Games in 2022 and will be a demonstration event for next year's games in Indonesia.

No-one can deny the popularity of computer gaming. It's worth a fortune and millions fritter away hours challenging themselves against opponents around the globe. But, popularity alone is not enough, if that was the case we'd have fishermen casting about for gold medals. In fact, fishing probably takes more skill and at least involves a walk to the lake. interestingly US immigration refuses to accept it as a legitimate sport and will not issue visas – who would have thought we'd reach a point where US immigration policy appears sensible? And, in the competitive world of bidding for Olympic Games, egaming is seen as a vote-winner. Co-head of the Paris bid committee, Tony Estanguet suggests eSports will be a fully-fledged medal event in France in seven years' time. Then, when you thought I'd heard it all, there's an announcement egamers will be dope-tested. And I mean dope-tested for drugs, not to see if they are dopes. Apparently a top player has admitted using a particular substance so the world's largest gaming organisation plans to introduce an anti-doping policy.

I recognise there is skill involved, and no-one can deny the popularity, but there is no way something so physically damaging to the youth of the world should ever be an Olympic sport. Too many young people are far too switched off and immobile as it is. But, read about the number of people attending live eSports tournaments and the prize money on offer, and you can see the attraction. Universities now offer eSports degrees.

Live tournaments get tens of thousands of viewers but attract tens of millions online and one tournament, with 43 million viewers, paid out £2.1 million in prize money. With such phenomenal interest and wedges of cash perhaps it's not surprising the world's gone mad and future generations will become huge lumps of lard with highly muscular thumbs.

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Christmas gift appeal

Reporter
Sophie Jones
sophie.jones@london.newsquest.co.uk

A supported housing service for teenagers and young adults in Epsom is appealing to the town's residents to provide some festive cheer by donating Christmas gifts.

Sanctuary Supported Living's (SSL) Defoe Court supports clients who often arrive at the service with no possessions of their own, and is appealing for Christmas food and gifts appropriate for 16 to 25-year-olds, with suggested items including kitchenware, warm winter coats, toiletry sets or vouchers.

SSL local service manager Katie Ashworth said: "When young people come to our service, they can often arrive with nothing but the clothes on their back, and no family support network in place.

"Donations for this appeal will give our residents the chance to build a new life for themselves, as well as make sure they don't have to miss out on Christmas at a difficult time in their lives."

Staff at Defoe Court work with their residents to provide personalised support, tailored to their individual needs, to help get them back on their feet and living independently.

Queries or arranging a drop-off can be handled by emailing defoe.court@sanctuary-housing.co.uk or by phone on 01372 232210.

Previous residents helped out by Defoe Court

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff and Specsavers founder Dame Mary Perkins at the opening of the 800th Specsavers store

DON'T DELAY, BOOK AN EYE TEST TODAY

With opticians on every high street and a growing number of out of town locations, keeping on top of your eye health has never been more convenient.

But despite that, a survey* has revealed that a quarter of UK adults are still risking sight loss by not having an eye test every two years, as recommended.

The research carried out by Specsavers and Royal National Institute of Blind People also identified that 250 people nationally start losing their sight every day despite half of all cases being avoidable. Routine eye tests are key in detecting and managing issues early.

Specsavers has just opened its 800th UK and Irish store in Sainsbury's in Preston – part of its ongoing drive to make eye care more accessible. It is the fifth outlet Specsavers has opened within a supermarket this year, with more to follow.

Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff cut the ribbon to the 800th store and popped in for an eye test. The cricketer turned broadcaster said: 'So many of us take our sight for granted. To see how far eye care has developed since Specsavers opened its first store is incredible.'

Specsavers features the latest clinical technology and highly qualified and professional teams. Complete glasses start at £25 with two for one available from £69. A variety of designer styles, including Kylie Minogue Eyewear, BOSS Orange and the new Balmain range are also available.

Eye tests can be booked online. Customers that have undergone an eye test elsewhere are welcome to bring in a valid prescription. Specsavers offers home eye care to those who cannot visit a store unaided. Free hearing tests are also available at Specsavers.

* The State of the Nation Eye Health Report 2017: A Year in Review

Cannot be used with other offers. Second pair from £69-£169 ranges, to same price range or below and to same prescription. **£69-£169 ranges:** 1.5 lenses. Single vision: included in both pairs. Varifocal/bifocal: you pay for the lenses in your first pair only. **£169 Fineform and Rimless ranges:** 1.6 lenses. Single vision: included in both pairs. Varifocal/bifocal: you pay for the lenses in your first pair only. All lenses scratch-resistant. Extra Options available at additional charge on both pairs. Excludes safety eyewear. SKU 30265189. ©2017 Specsavers. All rights reserved.

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Deaths

With a very heavy heart, the Nash family sadly announce the passing of Alan Michael Nash "Big Al" 17.02.1953 - 27.11.2017. The funeral will take place on 22.12.2017 13.30pm at Croydon crematorium. All who knew Alan are welcome.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of GILLIAN ANNE FREEMAN

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A loving Wife, Mum, Nan, Great Nan, Sister & Aunt. 10 years have passed since we lost you but you will always be in our thoughts and hearts.

With love all your family xx

CHARLIE WALLER
25.10.1930-12.12.2011
Sadly missed and always loved
Carole and all the family
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LYNN WILLIAMS
Lynn
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Tanis, David and all the family.

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Catch Carthy's fabulous folk session

English folk music legend Martin Carthy comes to Croydon Folk Club next Monday, December 11.

Carthy has remained one of the most influential figures in British traditional music. His settings of traditional songs with guitar have influenced artists for over 50 years from Bob Dylan and Paul Simon to Richard Thompson.

He's a ballad singer, a ground-breaking guitarist and an authoritative interpreter of traditional and newly-composed material. His guitar technique belongs to him alone. His picking style, mainly in the unusual tuning CGCDGA, ensures that the guitar follows the song, rather than the other way around.

The rhythm, often complex, mirrors the words and phrasing of the intricate ballads sung in his inimitable style.

Trailblazing partnerships with, amongst others, Fairport Convention, Steeleye Span, The Watersons and Dave Swarbrick have produced numerous best-selling albums.

Martin Carthy, Croydon Folk Club, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon, CR0 1BD, Monday, December 11, 8pm, £12/£10. More details at croydonfolkclub.org.uk

Alice in Winterland, this year's Christmas cracker at the Rose Theatre in Kingston, starts its month-long run this week. Some of the stars of the show answer our questions...

Join Alice's adventure

ALICE IN WINTERLAND, Rose Theatre, 24-26 High St, Kingston KT1 1HL, Thursday, December 7 to Sunday, January 7. Tickets from £15. Call 020 8174 0090 or visit rosetheatrekingston.org.

What made you keen to join the cast of Alice in Winterland?

Amanda Gordon (Mother/Cheshire Cat): It's an interesting and exciting reimagining of the Alice books for the 21st century. I wanted to work with the terrific creative team and I love working with youth companies.

Susannah van den Berg (Aunt Margaret/Queen of Hearts): I've seen a few Christmas productions at The Rose, as well as being involved in several community scratch choirs. I have always been impressed with the production values and the commitment and energy of the youth theatre. I was also excited about tackling a brand new script and original score, being involved in creating something new and fresh.

Gaia Mondadori (age 16, playing Alice): I have been part of the Rose Youth Theatre since I was 12 and fell in love with the Rose and the team. Having been a Rose Christmas production before I was eager to be part of the magic again. The cast spends so much time together that we do become one big family with lots of laughter, tears, and of course fun!

What is Alice in Winterland about?

AG: A girl finding herself through adversity. How to discover the warrior within!

SB: The setting of the original books has been changed to during the First World War. Using elements and characters from the two books it's essentially a coming of age story for Alice. Through her adventures in Wonderland she gains the strength and courage to deal with the trauma and responsibilities of reality.

GM: The show is based on Lewis Carroll's timeless classic, but in our version when Alice's father comes back injured and traumatised from the war he can no longer care for her and all she wants is for time to stop. Sure enough she stops time and is visited by a White Rabbit who instigates her quest to save Wonderland from the tyranny of the Queen of Hearts and an everlasting winter, and where Alice must discover herself in order to make the impossible become possible.

Tell us a bit about your characters and what are you enjoying most?

AG: I play Alice's mother and the Cheshire Cat. An unusual doubling, but both are there to help Alice along her own path. Cheshire Cat is a lot of fun, because she has her own rules and agenda. Don't all cats?!

SB: The Queen of Hearts is a delicious megalomaniac, rather like a modern day dictator. I'm finding her such fun to play because she has no limits. I have the ability to be as silly or outrageous as I like because my court allows me to get away with anything. Like anyone in great power, the chance of being overthrown is always present so I've chosen to rule by fear.

GM: In this adaptation, Alice is a 15 year old attempting to tackle grief and learning how to move on, whilst opposing the constraints of being a Victorian girl, and learning to find herself and allow herself to become a warrior. I am enjoying the playing a traditional character in a different way and the understanding the challenges that Alice faces on her journey.

What particular challenges does this role present to you as an actor?

AG: Finding the nuances and aspects of life as mother, mirrored in the Cheshire Cat within the insane world of Wonderland. Floating! Oh and losing my head!

SB: Vocally it's a big role – lots of shouting "Off With Their Heads" – so sustaining that will be a big task. Delivering a pretty spectacular battle scene whilst wearing a massive dress is also going to be challenging!

GM: Playing this role has helped me to develop as an actor and learn to be able to let go and trust the process and explore Alice and her strengths as well as her weaknesses. One of the challenges faced is being able to allow myself to not be afraid to get things wrong and to experiment, so each time I come to rehearsal I try to bring something new.

Alice in Winterland, is based on Lewis Carroll's timeless books, Alice Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass. Why do you think these characters have such an enduring appeal?

AG: The characters are bonkers and the chance for reinterpretation is endless.

SB: They're magnifications of human nature – all elements we recognise in ourselves taken to huge proportions. They're all things we could become.

The production sees a professional cast and a youth company perform together. What has it been like working alongside Rose Youth Company?

AG: The Rose Youth Company are a delight to work with. They are a group of talented, funny and bright young actors and I am loving every minute of it. They are growing in confidence all the time and it's fantastic to see. I don't get to act with all of them, unfortunately, but my Alices are brilliant, as are my cat movement chorus, who all play other parts.

SB: Really fantastic. They have such great energy and focus that could shame some other professional companies! Working with two separate casts is a joy as a performer as you get different performances to play off, meaning no show will be the same. The company really works as a true ensemble, they are generous to each other and there are no small parts. Slotting into a company like this is incredibly exciting.

Why do you think people should come and see Alice in Winterland?

AG: Alice In Winterland is an exciting and epic show. The story is brilliant. It is a touching and engaging action adventure, featuring a host of magnumptious creatures and beamish music, not to be missed!

SB: The story is incredible and the families who come to see it will go on a real journey with Alice. There's puppets, magic, monsters, a new script with an electrifying original score, some terrible jokes, beautiful costumes and scenery and snow... there's definitely snow. Entertaining yet life affirming.

GM: Because the production presents a heroine (at last!) who is coming to terms with grief and acceptance and these universal themes apply to everyone, no matter what age. It is a fun, uplifting Christmas show that allows you to step into a magical world.

FILMCHOICE

The Disaster Artist: Dave Franco as Greg Sestero and James Franco as Tommy Wiseau.
PA Photo/Warner Bros

THE DISASTER ARTIST (15): In 2003, actor and filmmaker Tommy Wiseau attended the world premiere of his independently financed romantic drama, The Room. The first-night audience howled in derision at the wooden performances, clunky dialogue and indulgent sex scenes. James Franco adopts dual roles as director and actor for a tongue-in-cheek dramatisation of the making of The Room, based on an award-winning memoir. The Disaster Artist lovingly recounts the genesis of Wiseau's magnum hopeless, mining uproarious humour from the camaraderie between cast and crew as the shoot lurches from outrageous misfortune to catastrophe. Franco delivers a touching performance as the quixotic ringmaster of the circus, starring opposite younger brother Dave and sister-in-law Alison Brie, who play a young couple sucked into Wiseau's self-destructive orbit.

STRONGER (15): David Gordon Green's uplifting drama relives the 2013 Boston marathon bombing from the perspective of Jeff Bauman, who was a well-wisher in the crowd that fateful day and lost both of his legs in the blast. Adapted from Bauman's memoir, Stronger chronicles events before and after the race, capturing the unbearable toll on Jeff and the people around him. Jake Gyllenhaal delivers an Oscar-worthy performance, bristling with raw emotion, as the survivor, who became a symbol of Boston Strong - the manifestation of a city's unity in the face of barbarism. It's a muscular and harrowing portrayal that powerfully captures every strained sinew and aching muscle of Jeff's nervous return to the land of the bruised but living. Director Green earns our tears without resorting to shameless emotional manipulation. His film stands tall and proud like the defiant everyman at its centre.

WONDER (PG): Lovingly adapted from the award-winning 2012 novel by RJ Palacio, Wonder is an exquisitely calibrated drama eschews mawkish sentimentality but still has us weeping uncontrollably by the end credits. An elegant script penned by director Stephen Chbosky, Steve Conrad and Jack Thorne confidently navigates the choppy emotional waters that threaten to separate four members of a Manhattan family, who have learnt the hard way that beauty comes from within. A simple bookmark structure alternates between narrators, exposing chinks in the characters' armour as they wrestle with insecurities and learn life lessons from a 10-year-old boy (Jacob Tremblay) with a rare genetic syndrome, which has resulted in 27 agonising surgeries to rebuild his face. Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson are an appealing parental double-act and Izabela Vidovic beautifully illuminates the guilt that gnaws at her older sister. The two-hour running time passes with copious laughter and tears. Only a stone cold heart will be able to resist the film's sincere and heartfelt charms.

THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS (PG): Putting aside the veracity of the title, The Man Who Invented Christmas is a family-friendly jaunt that melds historical fact and literary fantasy a la Shakespeare In Love. The halls of Susan Coyne's script are decked in Victorian-era period detail and unabashed sentimentality, drawing parallels between Dickens' upbringing and Ebenezer Scrooge's painful journey of self-realisation. Downtown Abbey pin-up Dan Stevens adopts a shaggy mane, not too dissimilar from his flowing locks in Beauty And The Beast, as one of the titans of English literature, whose career was in the doldrums before Jacob Marley's ghostly chains rattled in his imagination. Bharat Nalluri's film is both comforting and achingly familiar, wringing out decent laughs in scenes where Christopher Plummer's acid-tongued miser belittles the author, who gave birth to him. The overriding tone is saccharine, so audiences won't need to buy anything from the concessions stand to get a full-blast sugar fix.

BATTLE OF THE SEXES (12A): Husband and wife directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris serve and volley a fine romance in their dramatisation of the televised 1973 match between Billie Jean King (Emma Stone) and Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell), which was billed as a showdown of youth versus experience as much as a battle of the sexes. Or as Riggs pithily summarises the rivalry in the film: "Male chauvinistic pig versus hairy-legged feminist, no offence." Scriptwriter Simon Beaufoy, who previously penned The Full Monty and Slumdog Millionaire, elegantly navigates the personal lives of the two protagonists as he explores gender inequalities and sexual identity in the run-up to the winner-takes-all contest at the Houston Astrodome in Texas.

It's a sophisticated, crowd-pleasing rally of heartache and triumph against adversity, underpinned by universal messages of acceptance and respect.

SUBURBICON (15): A bungled home invasion in a pristine, picket-fenced 1950s American community provides the catalyst for George Clooney's darkly comic crime caper starring Matt Damon as a family man who conceals dark secrets from his young son (Noah Jupe). Based on a script by Oscar-winning siblings Joel and Ethan Coen, which has been gathering dust on a shelf for more than 30 years and arguably should have stayed there, Suburbicon addresses timely issues of racial politics and family disunity without drawing blood or compelling conclusions. The two narrative strands of Clooney's film - bigotry and deceit - are awkwardly woven together into a tableau that can't decide whether it wants to satirise society or pass swingeing commentary on the thinly veiled ugliness behind the American dream. As a thriller, the film telegraphs its cold-blooded intentions so far in advance, the only mystery is how the police, led by Officer Hightower (Jack Conley), are blind to the skulduggery in a post-war paradise of manicured lawns, voluminous skirts and dutiful housewives. A predictable tale of crime and punishment, which oozes period style but lacks suspense and a satisfying pay-off.

DADDY'S HOME 2 (12A): The rotten apple never falls far from the tree and Sean Anders' mouldering sequel to his testosterone-fuelled 2015 comedy lands with a mightier thud than its ham-fisted predecessor. Drenched in enough sickly festive spirit to make even the most ardent fan of Christmas gag and splutter "bah humbug", Daddy's Home 2 reunites a gurning Will Ferrell and po-faced Mark Wahlberg as hapless parents with very different approaches to raising the same children. Father knows best - or loudly claims to - in Anders' script, co-written by John Morris, which ramps up the mean-spirited games of one-upmanship with the addition of an older generation of dysfunctional family members played by Mel Gibson and John Lithgow. Themes of divorce, infidelity and macho pride are clumsily flung into an unappetising mix that once again relies heavily on Ferrell's repertoire of exaggerated physical pratfalls for meek laughs. There are only so many times he can be pummelled in the face before our season of goodwill wanes.

Chills and thrills

Kew Gardens Winter kew.org

This winter, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew will transform into an enchanted wonderland as the much anticipated Christmas at Kew returns. After the staggering success of the last four years, Kew has once again teamed up with entertainment promoter Raymond Gubbay Ltd to create a brand new illuminated trail, featuring over one million twinkling lights.

As they embark on the trail, visitors can expect a magical world that will fill hearts with seasonal cheer. The festive adventure will begin with a path lit by hundreds of illuminated globes winding through glittering trees festooned with silvery shards of light, snowflakes and stars. Children and adults alike will delight at the sight of an enormous glowing Sledge Tree constructed from over 360 wooden Santa's sledges.

As they continue, families will be greeted by the enthralling sound of a chorus of Singing Trees as they head towards one of Kew's most stunning attractions, its glistening lake. Here, visitors will witness an ethereal spectacle of light and sound with the lake's two islands slowly coming to life as angelic voices call and respond across the water. As they stroll over the famous 'Sackler Crossing' bridge, transformed through animated light, visitors will also marvel at the beauty of the sparkling reflections shimmering just beneath the water's surface.

The trail will feature many brand new and utterly unique installations by a range of artists. One such installation will come for the first time from Between Art and Technology (BAT) Studio, who'll be creating an ephemeral ultraviolet walkway of thousands of continuously moving bubbles. Founded by architects David Di Duca and Jonty Craig, BAT Studio have previously worked on projects for The Horniman Museum and The Science Museum.

Elsewhere, visitors will encounter clusters of trees wrapped in ever-changing ribbons of light, and a majestic weeping beech tree positively dripping with sparkling lights. Visitors will get the chance to warm up in the heat of the Fire Garden which will this year form a striking corridor of intricate pulsing fire sculptures and rotating lantern-lit Christmas trees. An installation from French art studio TILT, will form an enchanted promenade of hundreds of huge glowing peonies, giant grasses and coloured reeds.

Along the trail, visitors will be greeted by the scent of roasted chestnuts, mulled cider and other tasty offerings, while kids will be thrilled at the chance to toast their own marshmallows.

The Great Broad Walk Borders, the world's longest double herbaceous border, will for the first time form part of the trail. The stroll along the borders will culminate in a host of giant trees, made from thousands of colourful, sparkling flowers complete with holographic petals, from creative studio PITAYA.

Of course, it wouldn't be Christmas at Kew without the show-stopping Palm House finale. The pond and magnificent glasshouse will spring to life with an explosion of colourful criss-crossing laser beams, jumping jets of light, and new for 2017, kaleidoscopic projections playing across a giant water screen.

Youngsters will delight in spotting Santa and his elves performing along the trail, and White Peaks will once again become a festival fairground with a Victorian carousel and other rides for the little ones. As the winter trail comes to an end, visitors will be greeted by the scent of mulled wine, mince pies and other festive foods from a variety of enticing stalls at Victoria Plaza.

Christmas at Kew, until Monday, January 1, 5pm – 10pm (timed entries between 5pm – 7.40pm).

DAYTIME WINTER ACTIVITIES: Friday, December 22 to Tuesday, January 2, 2018 (Gardens closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

Explore Kew's incredible winter landscape and discover the science behind winter blooming flowers with an exciting array of daytime activities. In the tropical warmth of the Princess of Wales Conservatory, younger visitors and their families will be able to create their own beautiful winter flowers, and listen to festive stories, with a botanical twist.

Elsewhere in the glasshouse, there will be creative writing spaces where visitors can write and share their own winter tales with the help of a resident writer.

For full details of all events visit kew.org

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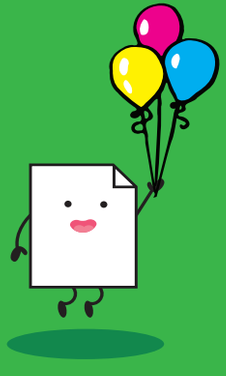

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TOP TIPS: What to do if your home isn't selling...

Waiting for your home to sell can be incredibly stressful. Here Graham Farthing, Residential Partner at Austin Gray, suggests five top tips on what you can do if your home isn't selling:

Make sure you get an up to date professional valuation: The bottom line is that it all comes down to the price. If you've got the presentation right then the price is a big swing factor for potential buyers. If your home ticks all the boxes from transport links and good schools nearby but falls in an unrealistic price bracket, buyers are going to opt for something else nearby. One of the best ways to ascertain a healthy starting price is to get a property valuation with a team who knows what they're doing. Ensure you research your local estate agents and talk to people in your local area for recommendations.

Try another sales channel: If you're keen to sell quickly then you should consider auctioning your home. Property auctions can exceed all expectations because they are transparent and secure with no hidden catches. Contracts are generally exchanged between the seller and the buyer inside the auction room and these events are often attended by a number of investors and developers who are ready to invest and expand their portfolios. As long as you set a realistic price your property should be sold by the end of the auction.

Be prepared to seal the deal: Spring and early summer are the best times to sell your house whatever the economic climate. Buyers will want to hurry into a new home in time for the summer sunshine and families like to get settled before the start of the school term. Ensure all your finances are in place so that if a buyer bites you're ready to seal the deal quickly. Make yourself available at all times and retain a close relationship with your agent so that your property is always kept at the top of their list of priorities.

Organise an open day: One of the best ways to drum up sales interest in a crowded property market is to host an open day. Open days have proved highly effective for a number of our sellers who have struggled for some time to sell without compromising too much on the price. Make sure you liaise with your estate agent directly on an event like this. A professional estate agent will take the time to set up and manage the event, and will use their expertise to guide visitors around your property effectively.

Choose the right estate agent: A dedicated agent will go above and beyond expectations to seal a deal. The right agent will know your area and local market inside out, its annual peaks and troughs, which demographics will be interested in your property and what appeals most to them. They will be your eyes and ears throughout the process and take the initiative to try something new if what you're currently doing isn't working. Finding the buyer is only one small part of what an estate agent will do. An agent will really come into their own when it comes to actually getting the sale through to the exchange of contracts and completion.

More at OnTheMarket.com

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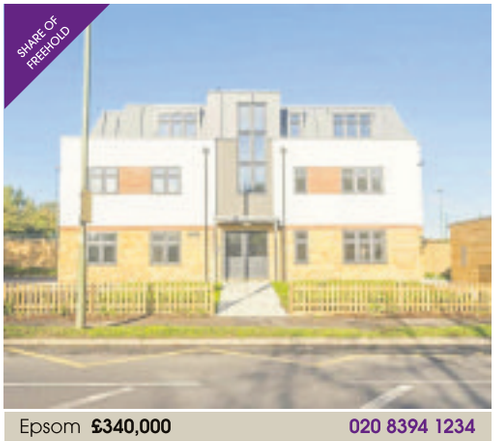

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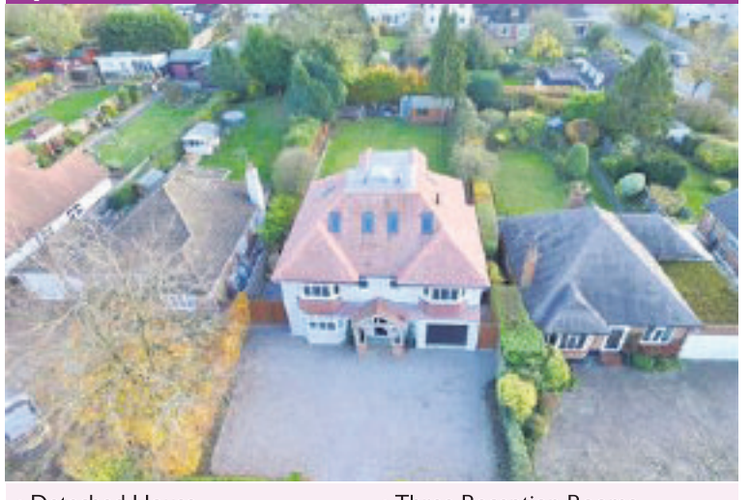

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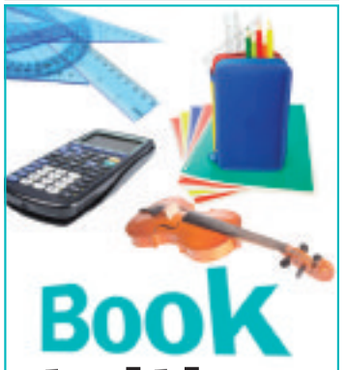

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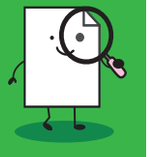

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Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Notice is hereby given that the following applications have been received:

17/01275/FUL	Chalk Lane Hotel, Chalk Lane, Epsom Conversion of hotel and various alterations and extensions to the listed buildings to accommodate 21 dwelling units, car and cycle parking and private and communal gardens.
17/01276/LBA	Chalk Lane Hotel, Chalk Lane, Epsom Conversion of hotel and various alterations and extensions to the listed buildings to accommodate 21 dwelling units , car and cycle parking and private and communal gardens. (Listed Building Consent)
17/01277/LBA	22 The Parade, Epsom, Surrey Conversion of part of garage to storage and garden room
17/01280/FLH	22 The Parade, Epsom, Surrey Conversion of part of garage to storage and garden room
17/01291/FLH	33 West Hill, Epsom, Surrey Erection of a single storey side/rear extension, part single/part two storey rear extension and conversion of the garage into habitable accommodation.
17/01228/FLH	5, 6 And 10 Spring Mews, Old Schools Lane, Ewell Replacement uPVC windows and composite material doors installed at Nos. 5, 6 and 10 Spring Mews. (Retrospective application)
17/01267/FUL	The Clock House Medical Practice, 4 Dorking Road, Epsom Change of Use from a medical facility (Use class D1) to office space (Use class B1)
17/01275/FUL	Chalk Lane Hotel, Chalk Lane, Epsom Conversion of hotel and various alterations and extensions to the listed buildings to accommodate 21 dwelling units, car and cycle parking and private and communal gardens.

Applications may be viewed online: http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Planning or alternatively by visiting Epsom Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5BY during office hours or in local public libraries with internet access. Should you wish to comment please use our website or email supportgrouprequests@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or write to Place Development at the above address. Please make sure that you quote the application reference number. Comments should be sent within 21 days from the date of this notice. All comments will be publicly available for inspection and will be displayed online.

Please note that details of all planning applications received are available on the Council's website.

Head of Place Development
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

EPSOM EWELL

Announcements - Public Notices

MOLLIE RUTH POSNER (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Sunrise of Banstead Croydon Lane Banstead SM7 3AG formerly of The Willows Parkgate Road Newdigate Dorking RH5 5AH, who died on 16/09/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 16/02/2018 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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NOTICE
THE SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
GAYFERE ROAD (D2174), STONLEIGH AND THE RISE (D2356), EWELL
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ORDER 2017

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSE TO MAKE the above mentioned Temporary Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to prohibit vehicles from entering or proceeding in the entire length of:

a) Gayfere Road (D2174), Stonleigh; vehicular traffic will be diverted via Scotland Bridge Road, Woodham Lane and Kings Road; and

b) The Rise (D2356), Ewell; vehicular traffic will be diverted via West Street, The Mount and The Kingsway.

This Temporary Traffic Order is required to enable highway resurfacing and/or maintenance works on behalf of Surrey County Council. These works are anticipated to be carried out as soon as possible within the eighteen month period of operation of this Temporary Traffic Order which commences on 8th January 2018. Advanced warning signs will be displayed and the temporary closures will only operate when the relevant traffic signs are displayed. Access will be maintained for pedestrians, residents, businesses and emergency vehicles at all times. HGVs and buses will be required to follow the diversion routes described above. Any vehicle found to be obstructing the highway during these works will be removed to a suitable location outside the limits of the works after all reasonable methods have been undertaken to identify and contact the vehicle's owner.

DATED 7TH DECEMBER 2017
Authorising Officer: R Bolton
Local Highway Services Group Manager
Any Enquiries relating to this notice should be directed to:
Traffic Regulation Orders Team
Surrey County Council - Highways
Hazel House
Merrow Lane, Guildford
Surrey GU4 7BQ
Tel: 0300 200 1003

SURREY

WILLIAM HENRY SANDFORD (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 18 Ruffetts Way Burgh Heath Banstead Surrey KT20 6AF, who died on 15/03/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 16/02/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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While many jobs in this sector involve shift work, admin roles are usually office hours so you can enjoy the buzz of an industry where no two days are the same, with the stability of a regular work pattern.

And, if you love travel, the experience gives you a great way to work around the world.Alternatively, try healthcare. Working as a medical receptionist combines strong admin skills with good customer service. You're the first person people will meet when they come through the door of a clinic or hospital.

Good numeracy and literacy and previous admin experience are always an advantage but training can be given on the job.If you're methodical and prefer a behind-the-scenes role, working in medical records could be for you.

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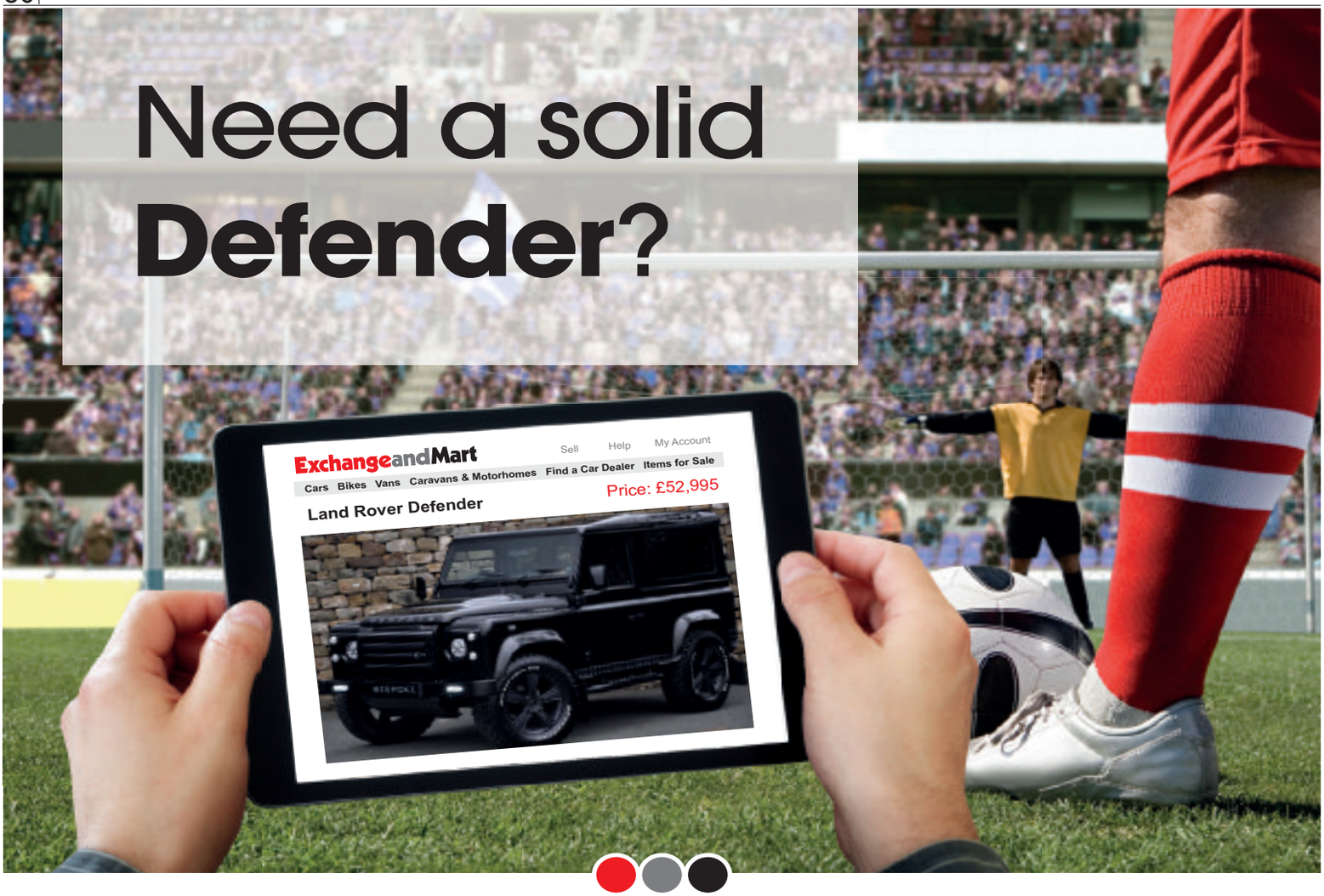

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Lexus NX 300 F Sport

BACKGROUND: When did SUVs become so bland? It's probably just a case of that which was once alternative and fresh gradually, over time, getting subsumed by the mainstream. These days, there's really not that much to choose between a BMW X3, an Audi Q5, a Volvo XC60 and a whole host of other wannabes if you have around £40,000 burning a hole in your pocket. The only problem is, these days everyone seems to have one. They've become suburban vanilla, a kind of lazy middle-class shorthand for a car, the automotive equivalent of an Abel and Cole organic veg box, if you like. If you want something a bit different, there really aren't that many credible contenders. Jaguar's F-PACE shows promise but if you really want to have your neighbours dropping their marmalade in slack-jawed stupefaction in the morning, the Lexus NX 300 is your weapon of choice.

DRIVING EXPERIENCE: The NX 300 is offered only in ritzy F-Sport trim. The engine under the bonnet is a fairly conventional 2.0-litre petrol turbo installation. Some markets get the choice of front or all-wheel drive, but as this vehicle is being positioned as a sporty range-topper, we get the all-wheel drive car only. It's got a fair bit of shove at 235PS between 4,800 and 5,600rpm, while peak torque is 350Nm, delivered from 1,650 to 4,000rpm. It's mated to a six-speed automatic transmission that has been specially tuned for the NX. Thus equipped, 62mph comes and goes in a crisp 7.1 seconds and Lexus reckons it'll keep going to 124mph. The transmission isn't quite on par with the eight and nine-speed boxes that are becoming the class standard, but other than that, there can't be too many complaints about the powertrain. Select Sport mode from the Drive Mode Select unit and the car holds onto gear a bit longer.

DESIGN: The Lexus NX 300 doesn't do shrinking violet. The F Sport exterior treatment includes a massive spindle grille with a mesh pattern featuring the Lexus F-motif, plus a deeper bumper with a metallic-coated lower section. The door mirrors have a black finish and the F Sport 18-inch, 10-spoke alloys have a two-tone black and machined silver finish. The alloys are shod in beefy 225/60R18 tyres.

These days there's no mistaking a Lexus for anything else and this NX remains distinctive and stylish, especially in this revised form. The signature spindle grille has a smarter look that aligns it more closely with the brand's RX luxury SUV and the upper part of the front bumper has been re-shaped so that it blends more fluidly into the bonnet. The headlamps have been revised too to accommodate a new Adaptive High-beam system, plus there are now sequential turn indicators, front and rear. There's a more stylised bumper at the back too, and re-styled tail lamp clusters with L-shaped lenses.

Inside, the key change is an increase in size for the central multi-media display. In the case of the Lexus Premium Navigation system, the screen has grown from seven to 10.3 inches, while for the Lexus Display Audio set-up, the increase is from seven to eight inches.

Other changes include a larger central analogue clock, a revised climate control panel and an improved touchpad for the infotainment monitor. As before, the interior also owes little to the premium German brands in its design ethos. Lexus aimed to combine the purpose of a high-performance vehicle with the materials quality of a luxury vehicle. The centrepiece of the dash is a curvaceous H-shaped metal frame that's a world away from a typically slab-fronted SUV fascia panel. Details like drilled pedals and quilted leather seats differentiate the cabin from the usual suburban SUV norm. Practicality certainly hasn't been overlooked though and the NX offers decent headroom, a generous front-to-rear hip point distance and the longest luggage area load length in its class.

MARKET: The F Sport theme continues inside, the cabin getting body-hugging sports seats which are electrically adjustable and also feature heaters and lumbar support. The standard-fit leather upholstery is available in two colours: black or, exclusive to F Sport models, Dark Rose. Both are combined with carbon-effect trim inlays. The specification also includes perforated, non-slip aluminium sports pedals and driver's foot brace, plus the F-Sport steering wheel is trimmed in grippy perforated leather.

Standard equipment includes a reversing camera, push-button start, an electrically adjustable steering column and power, auto-folding door mirrors. The rear seats divide and fold 60:40 and loading is made easier with a power-operated tailgate.

The eight-speaker audio system comes with a DAB digital radio, Bluetooth, CD/DVD player and a Remote Dial control, with information presented on the centrally positioned, full colour Lexus Media Display.

Safety kit comprises Lexus's millimetre-wave radar-controlled Pre-Crash Safety system and Adaptive Cruise Control, plus Vehicle Dynamics Integrated Management (co-ordinating ABS, EBD, brake assist, traction control and vehicle stability control operation) and eight airbags. In recent Euro NCAP crash testing, the NX proved the best-performing model in its class and secured the highest five-star rating. The asking price for that little lot? A fairly reasonable figure of just under £40,000.

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range:
Urban 28.0 (10.1) - 65.7 (4.3). Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) - 80.7 (3.5). Combined 39.2 (7.2) - 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 167 - 99.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

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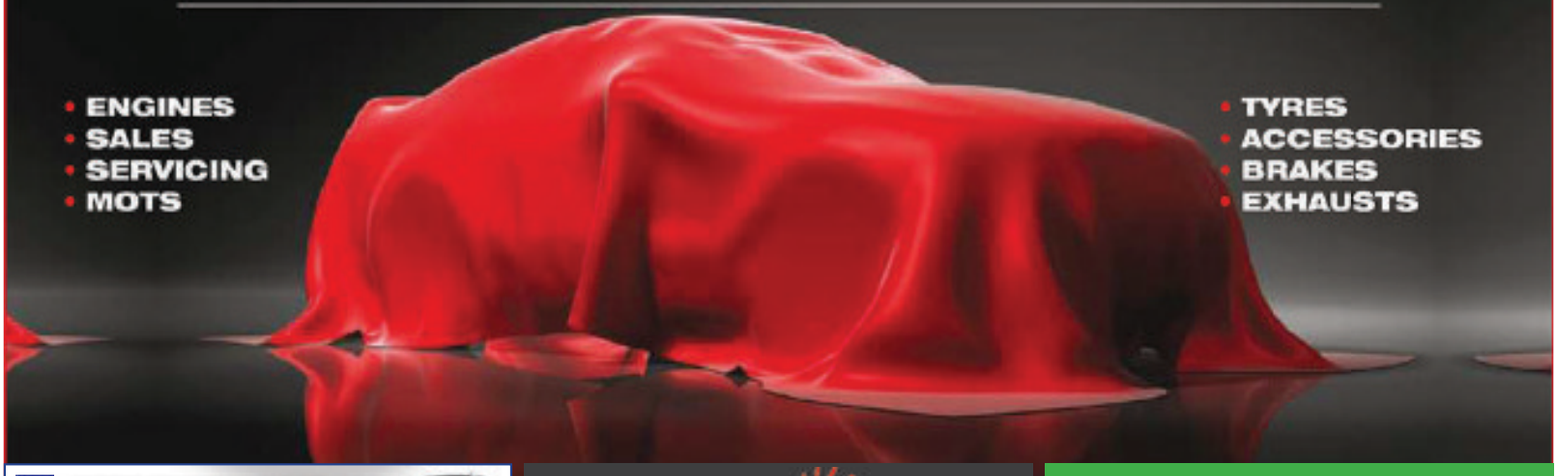

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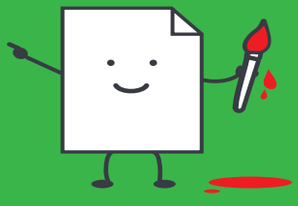

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Banstead suffer heavy loss

Abbey Rangers 6 Banstead Athletic 3
This is a difficult time for Banstead Athletic. Manager James Cameron has some long term injuries to contend with and the results are not going for the team, ***writes Bob Lockyer***.

Banstead made three new signings prior to the match last Saturday, but it was an uphill battle right from the kick-off when they allowed Rangers to score twice within the first eleven minutes. One of Athletic's new signings Jake Connaris opened his account with a close range finish and Danny Penfold found the net with a cracking shot from twenty yards out to bring the scores level. Rangers though scored their third right on half-time.

Athletic were out of the blocks in the second half and drew level from the penalty spot eight after a handball and Martin Smith drove the ball into the net. Athletic then conceded three goals within 17 minutes and didn't recover from that. Hanworth Villa visit Merland Rise this Saturday.

Dudley joy for Robins

Carshalton Athletic have extended their current unbeaten run to eight games after taking four points from the first two of a tricky run-up to Christmas, ***writes James Barrett-Sterling***.

After coming from behind to beat Walton Casuals 2-1 last Monday, the third-placed Robins hosted fourth-placed Cray Wanderers on Saturday and again turned a half-time deficit round to this time draw 1-1.

That game had three of the Bostik South's top goalscorers on display, including Michael Power whom put Cray ahead from the spot in first-half added time, but Carshalton's equaliser didn't come via a Mickel Miller or Raheem Sterling-Parker this time. "It wasn't the prettiest but its about time I got one," smiled defender Danny Dudley whom headed Carshalton level with his first of the season on 51 minutes.

"It's great to keep the unbeaten run going and I felt we restricted Cray to only two chances, both of which were penalties (the other was awarded at 0-0 but Alex Kozakis saved Power's low effort).

"We've worked hard on tightening up a few things and it's obviously been paying off, plus the fans' support has been immense recently. Everyone is buzzing"

Molesey vs Carshalton Athletic is on Friday, December 8 (kick-off 7.45pm) before the league leaders arrive at Colston Avenue on Monday, December 11 (kick-off 7.45pm).

Fine finish

Epsom & Ewell Harriers under 13 boys and girls continued their good form with excellent wins in the second Downs League fixture on Sunday, ***writes Stuart Flack***.

On a misty Epsom Downs, the boys team packed brilliantly with Dan Slaven 6th, Jake Valkenburg 7th and James Birbeck 9th to win with 22 points ahead of Herne Hill Harriers on 28 points. The girls were even more impressive with Sophie Lomas 2nd, Grace Fordham 6th and Riona Stockley 7th helping the team to first place on 15 points with Hercules Wimbledon second on 25 points. Chloe Royle also had a fantastic run to just miss out on the scoring team in 8th place.

Kiara Valkenburg maintained her individual win streak with another impressive win in the u15 girls race. With great support by Charlotte Tame 10th and Matilda Moore 16th, the team were 2nd behind Herne Hill Harriers. For the boys, Henry Smith finished a fine 10th.

In the younger age group, the u11 boys did well to take 3rd place out of the 10 clubs competing with William Holland 15th, Joe McDonald 17th and Patrick Moilliet 23rd. For the girls, there were great runs by Zara Girling in 8th and Isobel Cahill-Sawford 19th.

Tommy Wright keeps his composure to score the all-important second goal in Sutton United's 2-0 win over Eastleigh. Picture: Paul Loughlin

U's two good

by Warren Gwillym
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Tommy Wright came off the bench to score a crucial second goal as Sutton United beat Eastleigh 2-0 at the Knights Community Stadium on Saturday to return to the top of the Vanarama National League.

The 21-year-old striker raced onto a headed flick from Ross Lafayette to send a sublime lob high over Spitfires' goalkeeper Graham Stack and into the net in the 82nd minute having been brought on by U's boss Paul Doswell just 12 minutes earlier.

Tom Bolarinwa, the man Wright replaced, had put Sutton ahead in the 13th minute when he punished some sloppy defending from Callum Howe to take the ball away from Stack before neatly rolling the ball into the net.

Former York City midfielder Simon Heslop's low drive from 20 yards narrowly missed the target as the Spitfires briefly threatened an equaliser.

Kieron Cadogan tried his luck from a similar distance forcing Stack into making a save low down to his left and moments later he ghosted in on the blind side of the Eastleigh defence and once again saw his powerful close range effort blocked by Stack.

In the 38th minute United midfielder Kenny Davis was forced off with a hamstring injury.

Davis has made some telling contributions to Sutton's outstanding season so far but the disappointment of his premature departure was tempered somewhat by the return of his replacement, Craig Eastmond, who made his first appearance for the U's since sustaining a nasty injury at Hartlepool six weeks ago.

Eastmond, who was immediately on the receiving end of some robust Eastleigh challenges, almost set-up a second for the U's before half-time.

His ball over the top was met by a fearsome drive from Lafayette that flew inches over the crossbar.

Sutton controlled the game in the second half and a fine cross from the right by the impressive Dan Spence fell invitingly into the path of Cadogan who couldn't keep his shot down.

United's endeavour deserved a second goal and they were rewarded when Wright kept his cool to lob the ball home from 20 yards for his sixth league goal of the season.

United aim to continue their recent run of fine form when they visit Leyton Orient this Saturday (December 9, 3pm) and it's a match Doswell is really looking forward to.

"It's an incredible thing for this football club to go to Orient as favourites and that is justified based on our current league positions," said the Sutton boss. "We are going to enjoy it. There will be a good crowd of four or five thousand there.

"It'll be Justin Edinburgh's return to management with Orient and we'll take a lot of support there. I imagine we won't be far off 500 supporters there which we used to get for some home games.

"The supporters have certainly bought into what we're doing.

"I saw a very young team here on Tuesday [against Redhill in the Surrey Senior Cup] and we had the ladies day here today.

"We're trying grow this club organically and the next stage is to get 2,000 season ticket holders.

"This club is onto something special, and it's not just about the first team, it's also about the support we're getting.

"People understand what this club is being built around. It's being built around a community football club and the 3G pitch has had a huge bearing on that."

Farrell hits the target

Farnham 0 Sutton Common Rovers 1
Rovers made the trip down the A3 to take on a strong Farnham side, who have a decent record on their own patch, and forced a goalless draw with promotion chasing Bedfont Sports the previous midweek, **writes Gary Brigden**.

Rovers started brightly, with the prodigious Matt Auletta causing problems down the Farnham left, and on 12 minutes it was neat link up between Jeff Addo-Dankwa and Auletta that created an opening for Matt Farrell who fired home what was to be the only goal of the game. Rovers continued to hold the upper hand, and both Auletta and Farrell bought good saves out of Farnham keeper Adrian Giles.

SCR keeper Michael Eacott saved bravely at the feet of Ashley Peck early in the second half, but it was a half of few chances, with neither keeper seriously tested. Rovers did have the better of things, but they were unable to find that killer pass to set up the second goal, although Auletta almost increased the lead when he latched onto a Daryl Cooper-Smith flick and shot early but his effort drifted wide of the right hand post.

Third-place Rovers face a tough home game against seventh-place CB Hounslow United this Saturday, December 9 at 3pm.

Salts beaten

Despite creating some good chances, Epsom and Ewell slipped to a 3-1 defeat at Guildford City last Saturday, **writes George Holland.**

The Salts fell behind on seven minutes to a George Pilbeam effort, only to equalise 10 minutes later when Scott Murphy rifled the ball into the net.

Despite an even second half, Guildford scored late on with goals on 84 minutes from Mark Watkins, and 87 minutes from Nathanial Williams to make it 3-1 and seal the points.

Guildford were allowed to get away with some over zealous, and combative tackling and perhaps the officials should have done more to protect the players.

Epsom now travel to the runaway league leaders, Westfield, in the Combined Counties League this Saturday, December 9, kick-off at 3pm.

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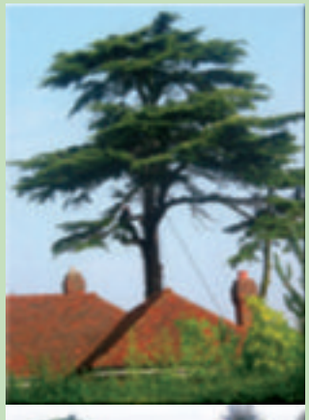

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